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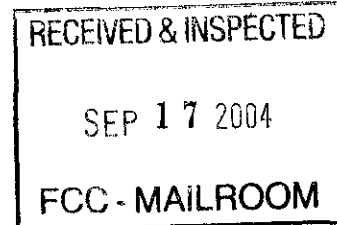
GREGORY V. CARMEAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ML#94144

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

September 15, 2004



Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45, Certification Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.314

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. §54.314, the Public Service Commission of Maryland ("Maryland PSC") hereby certifies to the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") that all federal high-cost support provided to Armstrong Telephone Company of Maryland ("Armstrong") for the period commencing January 1, 2005 and ending December 31, 2005, will be utilized in a manner consistent with §254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. As required by §254(e), Armstrong will utilize the Federal high-cost support for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

The Commission has reviewed Armstrong's request for certification and is satisfied that all federal Universal Service high cost support funds flowing to the Company, a rural local exchange carrier, will continue to be utilized solely for the purposes intended under Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. A copy of Armstrong's affidavit in support of its request is attached.

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List ABCDE

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The Maryland PSC thanks the Commission for its cooperation in this very important matter. Please date stamp the extra copy of this filing and return it to the Maryland PSC in the enclosed, stamped, self-addressed envelope.

By Direction of the Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald P. Eveleth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donald P. Eveleth
Acting Executive Secretary

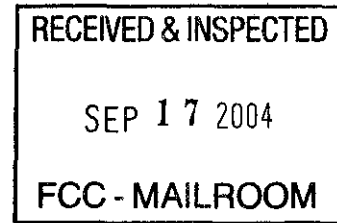
DPE/lvs

Attachment

cc: James D. Mitchell, President, Armstrong Telephone Company of Maryland
Michael L. Swindler, Esquire, Thomas, Thomas, Armstrong and Niesen

Ms. Irene Flannery
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20036

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA :
:
: ss
COUNTY OF BUTLER :



AFFIDAVIT

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. §54.314, Armstrong Telephone Company of Maryland ("Armstrong" or "Company") hereby certifies that all federal Universal Service high cost support funds flowing to the Company, a rural local exchange carrier, will only be utilized in the year 2005 for the purposes intended under Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act").

Specifically, Armstrong certifies that it will utilize its universal service support, in the amounts shown by USAC on its website at www.universalservice.org/hc/reports for the Company, for the provision, maintenance, and/or upgrading of facilities and service for which the support is intended.

In support of this certification, Armstrong represents the following:

- (1) Armstrong provided the supported services required by U.S.C. § 214(e);
- (2) Armstrong advertised the availability of supported services and the charges for them as required by U.S.C. § 214 (e); and
- (3) Funds received by Armstrong from the federal high-cost universal service support fund will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of the facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Based upon the information provided in one or more of the above three categories, Armstrong certifies that it utilizes its federal universal service support for the purposes intended under Section 254(e) of the Act.

By James D. Mitchell
James D. Mitchell
President

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23RD day of August, 2004.

Notary Public Kelly D. Chapman

My Commission Expires:

